

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166027

FOR GILMORE

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM WARSAW JULY 01:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 4570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL

SUBJECT: US-POLISH BILATERAL RELATIONS: RADIO FREE EUROPE

1. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER SPASOWSKI ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM THIS MORNING. HE SAID THAT THE POLISH GOVERNMENT WAS OBSERVING "A VERY BAD ESCALATION IN RFE BROADCASTING TO POLAND. THIS ESCALATION IS AIMED AT SHOWING THAT THERE IS A SERIOUS CRISIS IN POLAND AND A BAD GAP BETWEEN THE POLISH LEADERSHIP AND THE POLISH PEOPLE. THIS IS THE ONLY COMMENTARY WE HAVE OBSERVED BEING BROADCAST BY ANY FOREIGN RADIO STATION IN POLISH WHICH IS OF THIS NASTY AND UNPLEASANT NATURE. I HAVE CONSEQUENTLY BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER PERSONALLY TO TELL YOU ABOUT THIS AND TO SAY THAT THIS KIND OF BROADCASTING IS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE GOOD STATE OF RELATIONS WHICH IS OTHERWISE EXISTING BETWEEN POLAND AND THE UNITED STATES. I REMIND YOU THAT MR. OLSZOWSKI SPOKE WITH YOU ABOUT THIS A FEW DAYS AGO. WE HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION TO INFLUENCE RADIO FREE EUROPE TO BROADCAST IN A PROPER WAY, CONSONANT WITH THE OTHERWISE EXCELLENT STATE

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OF POLISH-US RELATIONS."

2. I ASKED SPASOWSKI IF HE COULD CITE SPECIFIC BROADCASTS WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT FOUND OBJECTIONABLE. I SAID THAT I HAD BEEN READING THE NEWS COVERAGE OF THE SITUATION IN POLAND IN WESTERN EUROPEAN NEWSPAPERS. PRESUMABLY RFE WAS USING THIS SAME MATERIAL.

3. SPASOWSKI SAID THAT HE WAS NOT TALKING ABOUT NEWS, BUT EXCLUSIVELY ABOUT COMMENTARY. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE SOME SEVENTY TO EIGHTY WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS NOW IN POLAND, WHO WERE SENDING NEWS REPORTS TO THEIR ORGANIZATIONS. THESE CORRESPONDENTS WERE FREE TO GO ANYWHERE THEY LIKED AND TO REPORT WHAT THEY SAW AND HEARD. "SO FAR AS WHAT I SAID IS CONCERNED," HE REPEATED, "I AM TALKING SOLELY ABOUT COMMENTARY AND ABOUT VERY DELIVERATE COMMENTARY IN THE DIRECTION I MENTIONED: OF TRYING TO SHOW THAT THERE IS A VERY SERIOUS CRISIS IN POLAND AND A VERY BAD GAP BETWEEN THE LEADERSHIP AND THE PEOPLE. THIS IS IN VERY SHARP CONTRAST, FOR EXAMPLE, WITH THE ATMOSPHERE YOU AND I OBSERVED DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING LAST WEEK WITH SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY SIMON. I SHOULD ADD THAT THE SITUATION IN POLAND IS NOW BACK TO NORMAL. THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE CONSIDERING VERY DEEPLY WHAT TO DO NEXT. SOME CHANGES ARE NECESSARY IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE. ALL THE RELEVANT FACTORS WILL BE CONSIDERED AND WILL BE GIVEN VERY CAREFUL AND LONG EXAMINATION."

4. SPASOWSKI CLOSED BY AGAIN ASKING THAT HIS REPRESENTATION BE CONVEYED TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON AN URGENT BASIS FOR ITS CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. I SAID I WOULD SO CONVEY IT. DAVIES UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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